

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 13, 2005 rejects claims 9 and 12 as being anticipated by Takeguchi, et al. It is now felt that the applicant's previous arguments could have been stated more clearly and the Examiner is respectfully requested to review the rejection in light of the above amendments which more precisely state the invention.

Clause g) of claim 9 is a key aspect of the present invention. In the Office Action this feature is stated as being known from Takeguchi, et al. at Fig. 11, col. 9 lines 39-65.

However, on reading this passage, there is no mention of the function which the central management means of the present invention performs, as stated in the amended clause g). Specifically, the central management means of clause g) sets the NE identifier value of the NE to which it is directly connected. While the network synchronization management station of Takeguchi, et al. may correspond to the central management means of feature g) this synchronization management station merely manages the synchronized operation of the SDH network as stated in col. 9, line 53 of Takeguchi, et al. The details of how the synchronization management station of Takeguchi, et al. performs its task are not mentioned.

In the present invention no identifying data is passed between network elements with the synchronization signal, but instead the central management means sets each input port of a node with an identifier relating to the node to which that port is directly connected. This feature is not known from Takeguchi, et al. and it is respectfully submitted that the invention of claim 9, and all claims depending therefrom are patentable with respect to this document.

Independent method claim 12 corresponds to claim 9 and is not anticipated by Takeguchi, et al. for similar reasons.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRSCHSTEIN, OTTINGER, ISRAEL & SCHIFFMILLER, P.C.

Attorneys for Applicant(s)

489 Fifth Avenue

New York, New York 10017-6105

Tel: (212) 697-3750

Fax: (212) 949-1690



Alan Israel

Reg. No. 27,564